

April 1, 1987

LB 564

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. Proceeding to the next bill, LB 564, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, 564, introduced by Senator Schmit. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 23, referred to the Judiciary Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Senator Schmit, please, on the bill.

**SENATOR SCHMIT:** Mr. President, and members, I want to say at the outset that I know that we have had some tough days the last few days, and we are going to have some more. I wish that I could stand here and tell you that this is an economic development bill, and that the returns are going to come back many fold immediately, and that everyone is going to love you, and that certainly those of us in this body can vote for this bill with impunity and secure in the knowledge that we will receive our reward at the polls next time. In all honestly you are probably going to receive your reward for voting on this bill in heaven. But the facts are that we recognize in Nebraska, after having gone through a long period of readjustment, that Nebraska has probably one of the finest judicial systems among the 50 states. We recognize that we have, as a Legislature over the years, adjusted the salaries of our judicial system and our judiciary people to the point where they are no longer at the bottom of the list, they are now only, I think they rank 39th amongst state...the State of Nebraska as far as judicial salaries are concerned. There was a time, a few years ago, when we were as high as, I believe, 33. But because we did not pass a bill several years ago, in fact the Judiciary Committee killed the bill, we have slipped in the rankings to 39th. I want to say that this Legislature, as near as I've been here, has passed a great many bills that have significance to every single member of this body. But none of those bills are of any value unless you have an excellent, highly qualified, conscientious, incorruptible court system with which to administer those statutes. Nebraska's system is one of which we can all be proud. I well recall, as a youngster, the county court system in my area and recall the judges who served there. They were fine individuals and we were very highly blessed in my area to have those kind of individuals. But I know that as I visited with people from other parts of the state that they were always bemoaning the fact that sometimes the county court system was not what it should be. I don't have with me a letter which I read in the Sunday newspaper, I believe, written by